(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to strengthen the capability for management of natural calamities in the country. These initiatives include development of disaster management framework, creation/upgradation of institutional structures at National and State levels for basic and specialized training in disaster management, training and equipping of specialized search and rescue teams for rapid intervention, building up basic capabilities for disaster response in all Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs), assisting the State Governments in the development of community based initiatives for disaster management in multi-hazard prone areas, emphasizing the need for adherence to earthquake/cyclone resistance features in construction of buildings, generating awareness and skills for disaster management by inclusion of relevant information in the curricula for school children and engineering students.

Request for increasing more funds by Maharashtra

2838. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has sought substantial increase in the Central funds for modernisation of police force in the State;

(b) if so, when these funds would be released to the Maharashtra Government; and

(c) whether Central Government are thinking of any general guidelines for modernisation of State police forces all over the country to adequately meet the challenges posed by changing profile of criminal elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Maharashtra Government along with certain other State Governments have sought change in the funding pattern of the Modernisation of Police Force Scheme.

(b) Funds for 2002-2003 have already been released to Government of Maharashtra on the basis of the existing pattern.

(c) The Central allocation has already been increased to Rs. 1000 crores annually from the year 2000-2001 onwards from only Rs. 200 crores in 1999-2000 to equip the State Police forces to meet the emerging challenges of the criminal and terrorist elements. The Scheme has been reviewed in the year 2002 and the recommendations of the Review Committee including an improvement in the funding pattern are under consideration of the Government.

Committee set up to review POTA

2839. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently constituted a committee to review POTA;

(b) if so, the reasons of constituting a committee to review POTA;

(c) whether some State Governments have openly violated to various provisions of POTA and misused in their respective States; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and by when the constituted committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) It has been alleged from time to time in certain quarters that the provisions of POTA are being applied in cases where they should not be invoked, thus giving rise to apprehensions regarding the Act being misused. The Central Government has constituted a Review Committee under section 60 of the Prevention of terrorism Act, 2002 to take a comprehensive view of the use of the said Act in various States and accordingly, give its findings and suggestions for removing shortcomings, if any, in the implementation of the said Act and to suggest measures to ensure that the provisions of the Act are invoked for combating terrorism only. The Review Committee has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, on 4.4. 2003.